California State University, Long Beach

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LINDSAY PETERS | DAILY 49ER

Participants to the BeachHacks hackathon could work on projects in teams or solo. A team building exercise was held after the opening ceremony to match attendees up with other programmers.

The Association for Computing Machinery hosts CSULB's first hackathon in the University Student Union.

BY LINDSAY PETERS
Assistant Design Editor

In the Seal Beach room of the University Student Union, 35-packs of soda and water bottles were stacked halfway to the ceiling like towers. On the opposite wall, similar box towers were filled with muffins, bagels and Krispy Kreme doughnuts. Coolers of Red Bull energy drinks stood in between.

This wasn't an elaborate stockpile for the apocalypse or someone's wildest dream. It was there to feed over 350 coders as they programed off and on for 24 hours.

BeachHacks, a hackathon hosted by the Cal State Long Beach Association for Computing Machinery, was the first hackathon on campus. It began Saturday at 4 p.m. and went until 4 p.m. Sunday.

This was the fourth hackathon for computer science junior Aaron Turner. During BeachHacks, he created a Super Mario-style computer game with his girlfriend, junior animation major Leah Garza, about an astronaut samurai. The game was for his company, No Comply Games.

Turner said hackathons could be a daunting task during, but the projects and collaboration makes them worth it in the end. Plus: free food.

"When you're halfway through you're like 'Why did I do this? I hate myself. I should just go home, everybody else is, why am I staying here?'" Turner said. "Then when you're done you're like 'This is the greatest thing I've done in my life.'"

A hackathon is a marathon-like programming competition. People get together in teams or solo to develop and build software projects in the allotted time.

Michael Botsko, president of ACM, said hackathons are typically 24 hours although some are 36.

see **BEACHHACKS**, page 2

Health Center sees drop in STI testing

Some students find they have to get tested off-campus as Medi-Cal enrollment becomes more prevalent.

BY VALERIE OSIER
Assistant News Editor

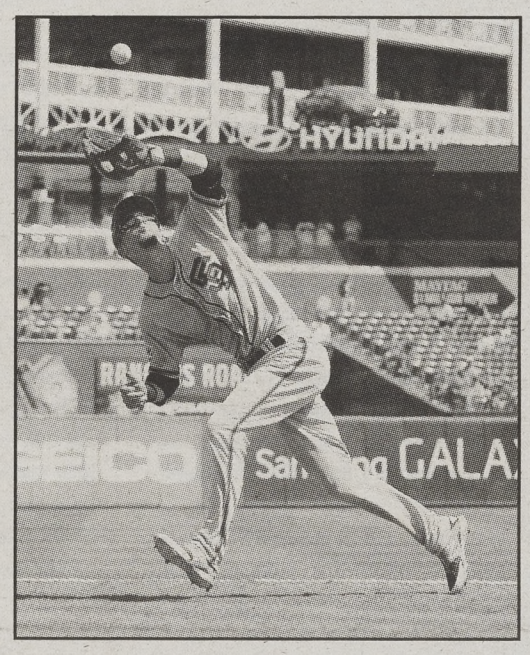
Fewer students are getting tested for sexually transmitted infections at Cal State Long Beach's Health Resource Center, according to data from the HRC, and school health officials are concerned.

Students with private health insurance or Medi-Cal must pay out of pocket for STI testing at the HRC or go to their off-campus provider, and the HRC is worried this may discourage students from getting tested.

The HRC charges students at-cost for STI testing unless they qualify for FamilyPACT, which is a program for low-income people that provides access to reproductive health care at no cost. Since the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, more students are covered by private health insurance or Medi-Cal, which disqualifies them from FamilyPACT, HRC coordinator Heidi Girling said.

"We actually saw quite a few students become insured for the first time in their life, which is awesome," Girling said. "So now that they've gained insurance through

see **SHS**, page 2

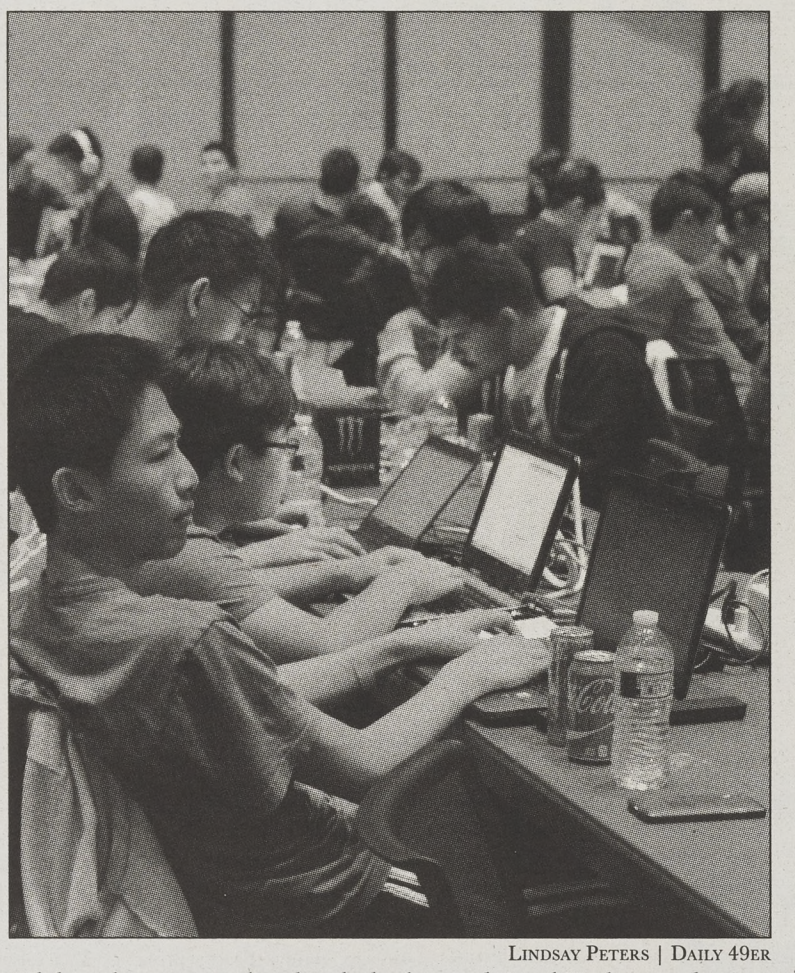


RICHARD W. RODRIGUEZ | TNS

49ers leading off

Eight former 49ers were on the roster for Major League Baseball's 2016 opening day. San Francisco Giants third baseman Matt Duffy (above) played for the Dirtbags from 2010-2012. Read about Duffy and more LBSU alumni on page 8.

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Lindsay Peters | Daily 49er

While ambient music played in the background, BeachHacks attendees focused on finishing their projects. Some took breaks throughout the night to eat, sleep or concentrate on something else besides a small screen.

BEACHHACKS

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"When you're running for this long you have this unspoken community," Botsko said. "You have people who are maybe half in pajamas just walking around, their hair's a mess, but no one is judging them because your hair's a mess [and] you've been up 24 hours trying to code."

According to Botsko, Long Beach has a solid foundation in computer science education but still lacks the tech culture where collaboration on projects happens regularly. BeachHacks was a learning experience and an introduction to that culture for the uninitiated.

"In the opening ceremony, one of the speakers asked [the crowd], 'How many of you is this your first hackathon?'" Botsko said. "And I'd say three quarters of the room raised their hand."

The hackathon included development workshops and a team building exercise to assess participant's interests and match them with others. Botsko said BeachHacks was an open environment for people of all skill levels.

"… Maybe you have a bunch of newbies clustered together learning, which is great too, or you have a bunch of senior level [developers] still learning because they're talking to other people about ideas," Botsko said. "I think it balances itself out."

BeachHacks was the first hackathon for Bryan Guerre, a senior computer science major. Guerre said participating in hackathons is a great addition to his resume but they also fit in with his style of programming.

> "No one's expecting anything crazy, but sometimes a simple idea can go a long way, and that's kind of the idea of these hackathons"
>
> *-Bryan Guerre, senior computer science major*

"I already like developing in spurts and sprints," Guerre said. "I thought it'd be cool to get together with like-minded people and just go and get it done. No questions asked [and] as fast as you can."

Together with computer science majors Chris Retanich and Vrezh Gulyan, a junior from Cal State Northridge, Guerre created a mobile app for Android and Apple devices. It takes a user's destination and compares the fare cost between Uber and Lyft ridesharing apps.

While the time is regulated, the projects and their scale are left entirely to the participants.

"No one's expecting anything crazy, but sometimes a simple idea can go a long way, and that's kind of the idea of these hackathons," Botsko said. "Just explore your skills then try to build upon them in a short time span and see what you're capable of."

Botsko is hoping to start a trend of more BeachHacks at CSULB. He said these competitions are an opportunity for learning new skills and gaining experience that employers look for.

"Not having this on your resume is almost detrimental sometimes in an employer fashion especially in the computer science industry," Botsko said. "So building on that: I wanted to try and offer this to as many people as possible especially at the Cal State Long Beach campus."

SHS

continued from page 1

Medi-Cal, they have their own private doctors off campus and they may not use us for that reason. So that is a concern because we're convenient, and they want to use us."

The number of students tested on campus for chlamydia in 2013 dropped by 1,007 students, or about 34 percent. The number of students tested for gonorrhea decreased by 32 percent and 44 percent for syphilis.

While the numbers for herpes culture tests stayed about the same and tests for human papillomavirus rose by 11 students, the decrease in the majority of testing is still concerning, Girling said.

When a student wants STI testing at the HRC but already has health insurance, the HRC has to refer them to their primary care provider unless the student wants to pay out of pocket for the lab tests. Although the charge for STI testing is as low-cost to students as possible, Girling says it still poses a hindrance. And having to go off-campus to a primary care provider or free clinic makes it more likely a student would put off getting tested.

"This is why students use us — because we're convenient, we're right here on campus and they can get appointments very quickly," Girling said. "… We're fast; you will never pay a copay."

According to the Student Health Status Survey conducted in 2015 by the HRC, there has been a 2.6 percent decrease in students covered by FamilyPACT and a 15.3 percent increase in students covered by Medi-Cal since 2013. Visits to enroll in FamilyPACT at the HRC have also dropped by 20 percent since the 2012-13 school year.

Even though the HRC can bill FamilyPACT, they cannot bill Medi-Cal because the approval process to bill Medi-Cal is extensive and would require funding and staffing "beyond what the student health fee can do," Girling said. To provide a comparison, Girling said to get approval to bill FamilyPACT took a two year application process and Medi-Cal is far more complex. She also said that the ability to bill Medi-Cal or other insurances requires an entire billing department, something that would drive the cost to students way up.

"The option of billing Medi-Cal [or] other kinds of private insurance have been discussed with both staff from the chancellor's office and also administration from some of the other CSU campus health centers on a number of occasions," Kristen Fabiszewski, assistant director and coordinator of quality assurance of the HRC, said. "Typically this kind of decision would be coming on a system-wide level and not by one of our individual health centers."

Earlier this month the HRC shared its concern over the increases in the positivity rates of gonorrhea and syphilis on campus. The uptick for gonorrhea was 0.2 percent and 0.3 percent for syphilis, the data shows.

The raise is in line with the rest of the country, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's 2014 Sexually Transmitted Disease Surveillance report. Girling said the rise, even a small one like this, is concerning because of gonorrhea's resistance to antibiotics and the danger of syphilis if left untreated.

HIV and pregnancy testing is also provided at the HRC at no cost to students.

Getting tested for STIs regularly mostly comes down to cost and convenience, Nielan Barnes, medical sociology professor at CSULB, said. Regular testing is generally not a stigma anymore and is important to many students, she said.

"It's really become demystified and de-stigmatized," Barnes said. "I think that the real barrier for students is not stigma, but rather accessibility in terms of money and time. If they're going into Student Health Services and being told, 'You already have this benefit, but it's part of a different health care component that you can't access here, go to your private practitioner or other provider,' that is increasing their cost, therefore decreasing their likelihood of getting tested at all."

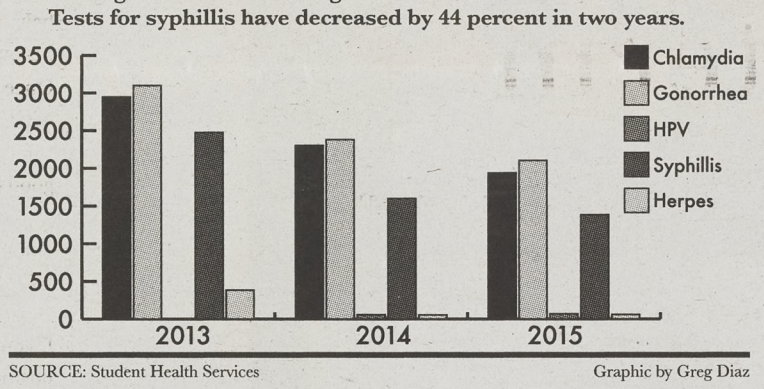
STI testing was fifth on the list of top ten reasons students were seen at the HRC in the last academic year. Tuberculosis testing, immunization clearances, "well woman" exams and sore throats were the reasons above STI testing.

Recently, the Associate Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. Mary Ann Takemoto proposed an increase in the Student Health Fee to be able to provide more services to students. Students currently pay $90 per year and Takemoto proposed an increase to $150 per year.

About 96 percent of the current budget for the HRC is taken up by salaries, leaving no room for outreach or additional programs and services for students, Fabiszewski said. The fee has not gone up since 2005 and is the lowest of all the CSUs.

Number of students tested for STI's

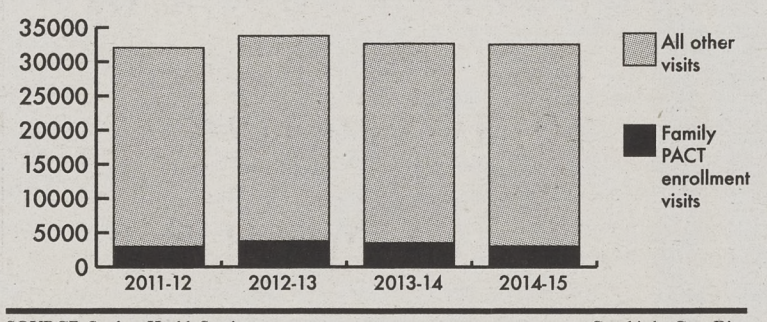
Testing for most STI's has gone down at the student health center. Tests for syphillis have decreased by 44 percent in two years.



SOURCE: Student Health Services Graphic by Greg Diaz

Number of student visits to health center

Between 3000 and 4000 students visit the student health center each year to enroll in the Family Pact program.



SOURCE: Student Health Services Graphic by Greg Diaz

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Q&A

ASI president reflects on his term

CSULB student leader rides political roller coaster; hits some goals, misses others.



ERIK OHRSTROM | DAILY 49ER

Jose Salazar, ASI president, sits at his desk in the USU Monday. Salazar lost in this semester's elections and will not return as ASI president next year.

BY COURTNEY HERON
Staff Writer

Walking into Associated Students, Inc. President Jose Salazar's office, one can feel a sense of business. Salazar had a long and daunting list of goals he'd pledged to accomplish while in office during the 2015-16 academic year, which begs the question: Has he achieved all these goals? In his mind the answer is, for the most part, yes.

Though lowering tuition goes beyond his jurisdiction of power, Salazar said he focused on getting more funding from the CSU; he got a grant to have a police officer sitting in on victims cases in an effort to combat sexual abuse on campus; his plan to create solar panels will be going forward this summer; and he said he is working on having internships in place in the summer for students regardless of their nationality and documentation in a mimic of UCLA's Dream Summer program.

But he did not accomplish the creation of a bike shop for student rentals. Instead, Salazar has worked with the city and the university to establish city bikes in 50 locations within Long Beach and two on campus where residents are able to use the bikes and then drop them off in other city bike locations.

Having lost the 2016-17 ASI presidential election, Salazar's time in office is almost over. The Daily 49er sat down to talk with Salazar about his time as student president.

Do you remember your first day as president and what was that like?

The first day was pretty empowering. I came here to the office and I couldn't believe it, it felt surreal. I kept on trying to touch the walls to make sure they were real, remembering that this wasn't a dream.

What made you decide to run?

The reason I ran for president, to tell you the truth, was because it came out of a meeting in one of my social justice groups. We started talking about the necessity of having someone who wasn't documented to lead the students and to help our community come out of the shadows and believe in themselves — to send a message to the students that our community is the community. We're not all these things people call us. We wanted to end the prejudice and show [the students] that we are good people. I decided to run to be that first undocumented president to let our community know that if I can do it, so can you.

How has this current term been for you? What did you enjoy the most?

It's definitely been a rollercoaster ride, it has its ups and it has its downs. I wanna build airplanes and spaceships but never got into one. This previous year, two days before my birthday, I got in an airplane being president. Finally fulfilling my dream, you know, flying in an aircraft. For many years knowing how hard it is to finally have a voice and finally be the voice of the representative, it's definitely been a very valuable experience.

> "I kept on trying to touch the walls to make sure they were real, remembering that this wasn't a dream."
>
> *-Jose Salazar, ASI president*

What kind of projects or goals have you been working on?

I have [my goals listed] on paper all the time next to me.

We set up meetings where we get the student body [or] anyone who wants to come by and ask us questions and keep us accountable. Last semester we did it three or four times, this semester for sure we already have three planned once a month, the February one should be coming up soon.

As for lowering tuition, I know this is a very hard goal to do, and I must admit I can't finish it within my year. I talked to the legislators in Sacramento last year; we were able to get a robust funding of the CSU with $97 million from the budget of California; this year we're trying to get $101 million which would be $4 million more to keep us at robust funding so we can keep a balanced tuition.

We are [also] going forward with the recommendation to change the executive pay of scholarships so we can make it inclusive for everyone who wants to run as an executive so they can be able to get paid for their job.

What challenges have you faced, and how have you overcome them?

Some of the not-so-good times probably [were at] the beginning of my semester, [it] was pretty rough. Learning how to actually do this position because when you do this position it's not like you have a specific goal. Each president takes upon his own goals just like a regular politician would. Once I found out the right people to talk to for whatever specific case I wanted to do or whatever project I was working on, things got easier. The good outweighs the bad.

What qualities does the next person need to have to be president?

You've got to have the drive, first of all, 'cause if you don't have the drive it's very hard to do the position. [Keep] up with your responsibilities, don't be a slacker because then you have so much work hanging over you. Be responsible; have the the attitude that you really want this position and be able to work [with] others. The rest you can learn on your own like computer work, phone calls and meetings. As long as you have those three you should be fine.

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400 years after his death, William Shakespeare has kept his cool

LOS ANGELES — To be or not to be Hamlet? Stupid question.

An actor passing on the opportunity to drill into the skull of the Great Dane — or dozens of other complicated characters from William Shakespeare's deep roster — is akin to a country singer turning down an invitation from the Grand Ole Opry.

Embrace the Bard, your name could eventually be in lights. Ignore him and spend the rest of your professional life waiting to audition behind Joey Tribbiani.

"It's more than just brilliant prose. It's a workout," said actor/director Kenneth Branagh, 55, the most famous Shakespeare cheerleader of his generation. "It requires you to dance, sword-fight. It's not something you get bored with easily."

That sentiment comes as no surprise from a guy who was probably dissecting "The Merchant of Venice" while his schoolmates were figuring out the latest Hardy Boys mystery. But four centuries after the playwright went to the big stage in the sky, his work still resonates with performers of all ages and backgrounds — a passion that seeps into your pop culture diet whether you know it or not.

Take red-hot Benedict Cumberbatch. The actor breathed fire into "The Hobbit" trilogy and enraged Capt. Kirk in "Star Trek Into Darkness," only to follow up those big-budget splashes last year by playing Hamlet, the hottest ticket in the history of London theater.

Beloved movie star Tom Hanks, who got his big break playing the comic servant in a Cleveland production of "The Taming of the Shrew," pays his debt by helping inner-city kids in Los Angeles experience the Bard for free.

Recent Oscar winner Leonardo DiCaprio taught his fans that parting is such sweet sorrow in Baz Luhrmann's flashy 1996 film "Romeo + Juliet." Denzel Washington has twice put his movie career on pause to do "Julius Caesar" and "Richard III" in New York. CNN recently unearthed footage of a 14-year-old Jennifer Lawrence tackling Desdemona in a Louisville community theater's stab at "Othello."

"I would love, love, love to play Hamlet," said James Norton, who was plucked from the Cambridge student body for Trevor Nunn's production of "Cymbeline" nine years ago and is melting hearts as a jazz-loving vicar in PBS' "Grantchester." "But I'm already a bit too old."

The 30-year-old Norton may think the role has passed him by — although maturity didn't stop Mel Gibson from doing a 1990 film version at the creaky age of 34 — but there are plenty of other choices in his future.

One of the keys to Shakespeare's longevity is that his characters cover every demographic, from a teenage Juliet to a doddering King Lear.

"You get so used to doing Shakespeare, it becomes part of your life," said Michael Gambon, who trod the boards at London's National Theatre, under the direction of Laurence Olivier, decades before replacing the late Richard Harris as Prof. Dumbledore in the "Harry Potter" movies. "That just continues as you grow older."

Gambon's latest role, as Winston Churchill in PBS' upcoming production of "Churchill's Secret," may not be from Shakespeare's canon. But the story of the former prime minister's attempt to recover from a debilitating stroke wouldn't seem out of place in one of the Bard's dramas as the seemingly invincible leader privately struggles to outlast the winter of his discontent.

"Shakespeare really loved audiences, and he just wanted stories that would connect," said Golden Globe-nominated actress Romola Garai ("Emma," "The Hour"), who recently wrapped up a critically acclaimed run in London of Shakespeare's "Measure for Measure." "He wasn't so interested in complicated ideas. These are elemental themes, and that's what stories should always be about."

Having Shakespeare on your resume will get the attention of casting directors, even when they're looking for someone to take on a caped crusader.

> "Shakespearean actors are perfect for the comic-book world. They have the ability to make a scene feel real and heightened at the same time. That's why they're also ideal for Disney characters and other voice-over work"
>
> *-Greg Berlanti, TV producer*

"Shakespearean actors are perfect for the comic-book world," said TV producer Greg Berlanti, who often taps classically trained performers as villains for CBS' "Supergirl" and the CW's "The Flash." "They have the ability to make a scene feel real and heightened at the same time. That's why they're also ideal for Disney characters and other voice-over work."

Branagh's adventures with Shakespeare also came in handy behind the scenes in 2010 when preparing to direct the most highly anticipated project of his career.

"The spectacle and size of 'Thor' is not something you get intimidated by if you do a lot of Shakespeare, who used a lot of epic battles, monsters, magic, all of those," Branagh said. "Some people may think the comic-book world is extravagant, but I don't get thrown by it."

But just because Shakespeare is good for you doesn't mean every actor comes willingly to the table.

Anthony Hopkins got his professional start as Olivier's understudy at the National Theatre. He divorced himself from live performances and the Bard's words decades ago, escaping to the U.S., where he made his mark as Hannibal Lecter in the 1991 movie "Silence of the Lambs." Hopkins did set aside his old grudge against Shakespeare to play the title character in the film adaptation of "Titus" in 1999, but he has only recently discovered a passion for the Bard.

He'll play an actor obsessed with "King Lear" in a TV version of the play "The Dresser," co-starring Ian McKellen and premiering on Starz May 30. Later this year he'll go all in, for a BBC production of "Lear" also featuring Keira Knightley, Naomi Watts and Gwyneth Paltrow.

"'The Dresser' was a revisit to a world I had known 50 years ago and wasn't comfortable with," said Hopkins, who used to treat going on stage like a trip to the dentist. "I can now understand why Sir Ian and so many great actors love Shakespeare. I wish I had had that then."

A younger Hopkins may have benefited from classes taught by Doug Scholz-Carlson. In addition to serving as artistic director for Winona, Minn.'s, Great River Shakespeare Festival, Scholz-Carlson introduces high school students to the classics, demystifying the language by comparing it to the way they talk to one another in the cafeteria.

"I ask them, 'If you were to write that dialogue down and hand it to your parents, would they understand it? Probably not, but if they could see you act it out with your facial expressions, they probably would,'" he said. "In the same way, Shakespeare was making up his own language. Once kids get that, they get excited."

Branagh remembers being downright giddy the first time he experienced "Romeo and Juliet" — The angst! The love! The guns! — and then seeing a younger generation react the same way to DiCaprio's version during a Friday matinee in Boston.

"I must have been the only guy in a room full of 15-year-old girls who were going mad," he said.

PBS has done its part in spreading the gospel with "Shakespeare Uncovered," a sort of "Classics for Dummies," in which marquee names such as Ethan Hawke and Kim Cattrall take viewers by the hand and guide them through the iambic-pentameter minefields.

The series, which will air a third season at an unscheduled date, has triggered celebrations across the country, including Nashville residents paying tribute to "Romeo and Juliet" by assembling the largest "balcony scene" ever over a dried-up riverbed.

Once newcomers crack the code, they can begin to appreciate some of literature's richest heroes and villains who have stood the test of time.

Just ask McKellen, who has played all manner of fantasy figures, from Gandalf to Magneto — and imbued them with a Shakespearean thrust.

"Once you discover Shakespeare, he can be right at the center of your imagination," said McKellen. "Long may he continue to do just that."

—Neal Justin, Star Tribune (Minneapolis), TNS



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Kesha says she was offered her 'freedom' if she retracted Dr. Luke rape claims

Kesha says she was offered a deal in exchange for a lie.

The "Tik Tok" singer, whose fight to get out of her contract with Sony Music hinges on an allegation that she was sexually abused for years by producer Dr. Luke, posted an Instagram message Sunday claiming she'd been given the opportunity to end the drama now, if she'd just do this one thing: say she lied about being raped.

"(S)o," she wrote, "I got offered my freedom IF i were to lie. I would have to APOLOGIZE publicly and say that I never got raped. THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS behind closed doors. I will not take back the TRUTH. I would rather let the truth ruin my career than lie for a monster ever again."

She was referring to what she said in 2011 in a deposition in an unrelated case. Under oath and on video, she said at the time that Dr. Luke, real name Lukasz Gottwald, never drugged her or had "an intimate relationship" with her, as she is currently alleging.

"The Court repeatedly stated Kesha is already free to record without Dr. Luke, and that she had not presented any facts supporting her claims … ," a spokesperson for Dr. Luke said in a statement to Rolling Stone on Sunday. "The only thing Kesha is not free to do is to continue to lie about Dr. Luke through publicity stunts and outrageous smears, ignoring the fact that by her own free will she went to work and entered into new contracts with Dr. Luke years after this 'incident' supposedly happened."

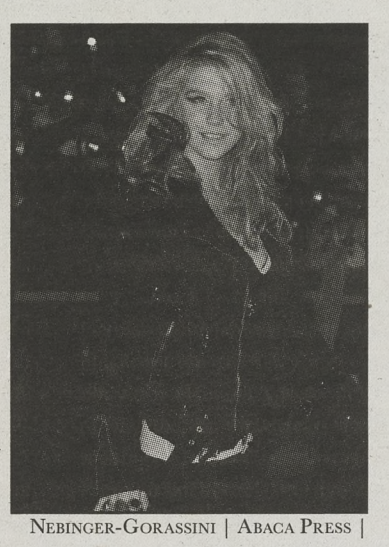
The statement continued: "We look forward to our day in court holding Kesha accountable for her lies."

Now, the 29-year-old performer, real name Kesha Rose Sebert, is reportedly in talks to bring Dan Petrocelli on as co-counsel with Mark Geragos as the case moves forward.

"She's ready to go to war with these people," a source told People on Monday. Petrocelli successfully represented Fred Goldman, father of Ron Goldman, in his wrongful-death civil suit against O.J. Simpson.

Dr. Luke and Sony have claimed that Kesha is really trying to renegotiate a better contract. She's currently obligated to deliver a half-dozen more records for Sony.

In February, a judge rejected Kesha's request for a preliminary injunction that would cut her ties with the company while the case is litigated and allow her



NEBINGER-GORASSINI | ABACA PRESS | MCT

Kesha arrives to the 11th Annual NRJ Music Awards 2010 held at the Palais des Festivals in Cannes, France, January 23, 2010.

to return to work, which she hasn't done since seeking treatment for an eating disorder in January 2014. The court said that letting Kesha out of her current contract would cause Sony irreparable financial harm. Kesha's legal team is appealing that decision.

"It's a shame that there's so much speculation out there basing itself on so little information," Gottwald wrote in a series of tweets after the preliminary injunction was denied. "The only truly objective person who knows the facts is the judge. … I understand why people without all the information are speaking out. I can appreciate their compassion. But lives can get ruined when there's a rush to judgment before all the facts come out. Look what happened at UVA, Duke etc."

According to the lawsuit, Gottwald over the course of a decade — after bringing Kesha to Los Angeles from Tennessee at 18 — "sexually, physically, verbally, and emotionally abused Ms. Sebert to the point where Ms. Sebert nearly lost her life," aiming "to destroy her self-confidence, self-image, and self-worth so that he could maintain complete control over her life and career."

His attorney Christine Lepera said at the time: "The New York County Supreme Court on Friday found that Kesha is already 'free' to record and release music without working with Dr. Luke as a producer if she doesn't want to. Any claim that she isn't 'free' is a myth."

The complaint Kesha filed in Los Angeles County Superior Court in 2014 painted a dark picture of abuse, including comments about her talent and her weight. Because of a clause in her contract, the singer was ordered by the court to handle the case in New York, where Dr. Luke had separately sued her for defamation and breach of contract.

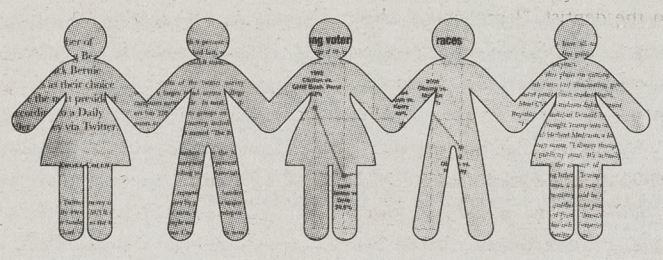
In March, it was rumored that Sony was cutting Dr. Luke loose in a response to public pressure. His attorney denied the story.

After the injunction was rejected in February, the likes of Lady Gaga, Ariana Grande, Fiona Apple, Lena Dunham and Lorde supported Kesha on social media. Taylor Swift gave the performer $250,000, and Kelly Clarkson — whose songs "Since U Been Gone" and "My Life Would Suck Without You" were produced by Dr. Luke — also added her voice to the mix.

"He's a talented dude, but he's just lied a lot," Clarkson said of Luke during an Australian radio interview. "I've run into a couple really bad situations.

"Musically, it's been really hard for me because he will just lie to people. It's like, 'What?' It makes the artist look bad. He's difficult to work with, kind of demeaning, it's kind of unfortunate … . Obviously the dude is a talented guy but character-wise, no."

—Christie D'zurilla, Los Angeles Times, TNS



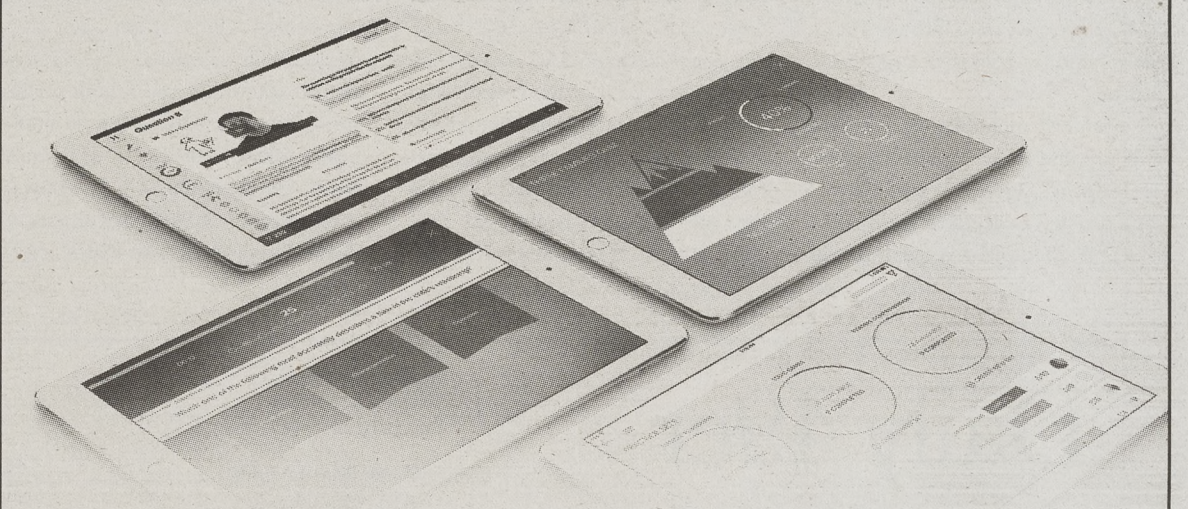
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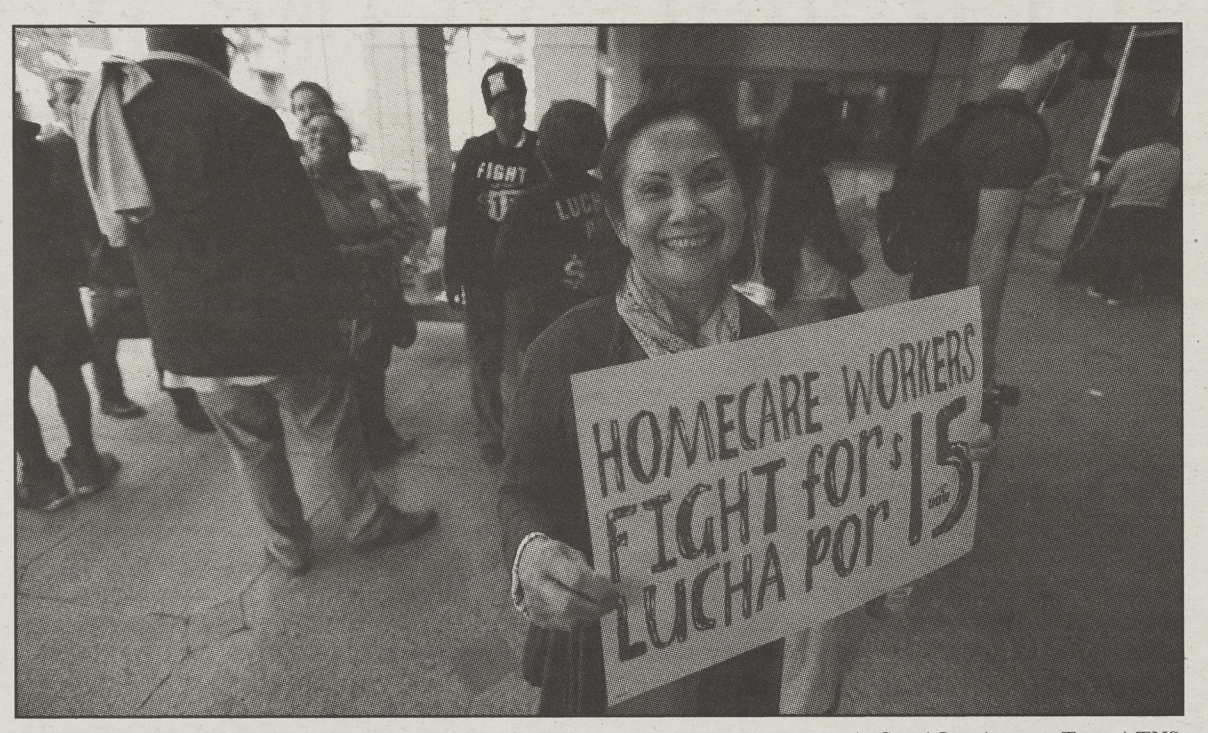
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Celebrating California's sweet 15

The decision to raise minimum wage to $15 is a huge move forward.

By Micayla Vermeeren
Opinions Editor



Al Seib | Los Angeles Times | TNS

Health Care Worker Mimi Bui holds a sign as people wait in line to enter the Ronald Reagan State Building in Los Angeles where Governor Brown signed a minimum wage bill Monday, April 4, 2016 in Los Angeles.

Before anybody starts popping bubbly in celebration of their soon-to-be-fatter paychecks or throwing their arms up in exasperation over so-called unskilled labor being rewarded with higher pay, please understand that the $15 an hour minimum wage figure that's been overtaking headlines for the last two days will not come into effect for six or seven more years.

But, at the end of it all, the raise will be a reality for about five and a half million minimum wage employees living in California, and that's just remarkable.

Minimum wage jobs are not as easy as a lot of people like to make them out to be, and in 2016, anybody working full time should be able to make enough money to support themselves.

There have been all sorts of posts circulating on social media decrying the decision, calling out politicians for supporting the lazy moochers behind our favorite fast food counters and mop buckets more than firefighters, EMTs, police and other first responders. A Facebook status written by a medic that's been shared almost 300,000 times asks, "why aim to be successful anymore when the government just caters to uneducated, unmotivated individuals?"

Just for a point of reference, an individual working full time at $15 an hour would make $30,000 in a year, before taxes. California is one of the seven most expensive states to live in, according to a report by USA Today, and is home to Los Angeles, which is ranked as the second most expensive city to live in within the nation and eighth most expensive city to live in globally by Business Insider. Knowing that, nobody could consider a $30,000 salary anywhere near successful.

At $30,000 a year, that individual would likely never save enough to own a home, pay for adequate health insurance, legitimately support a spouse, child or other family member, be able to travel, cover unexpected incidentals or indulge in any major luxuries without significant planning and budgeting.

This inherent assumption that anyone working a minimum wage job is only doing so because they have no motivation, education or desire to make a better future for themselves is baffling. People need money to survive, point blank. Why in the world should it matter how someone manages to make ends meet for themselves?

Most surprisingly, though, is the fact that most of these posts are coming from people in the 18-25 age bracket – people who, more often than not, work minimum wage jobs.

And, maybe, part of that perspective is somewhat understandable. There's always been an enormous amount of pressure for us to kill it in high school, get into a good college, focus on a degree that will get us a career straight out of graduation and make enough money to mimic the lifestyle of baby boomers who had no issue buying property or cars before the age of 30.

It could be scary to think that minimum wage employees will be sucking up all of the money you feel like you've worked harder for and have more of a right to earn.

Here's the thing that seems to be going over the heads of people with that perspective – whether or not you find minimum wage jobs glorious or respectable, the people working them are still actually working. They may not be working in the way you want them to, but they are still putting in the hours, effort and energy to earn their keep.

If you think that food service or manual-labor jobs are only fit for teenagers with nothing better to do than stand around and gab on the clock, please go spend a weekend in your local restaurant as a dishwasher. Please shadow a bartender at the local dive. Put yourself in the shoes of the people you just don't deem worthy of livable wages, then make your way back to me and tell me their petty little jobs are walks in the park that don't warrant enough money to manage basic human needs.

There's no need to argue with people saying that small business owners will be feeling the pursestrings tighten as they dole out more money every month to keep themselves afloat. There's no need to argue with the people who are pointing out that some product prices will be increasing to cover those extra few bucks. What they're saying is true.

The pay raise isn't going to be all positives for all Californians, and there will be people and companies that are going to be in a somewhat less secure standing as a result. However, we're at a place where something had to give, and now that the raise has been approved, minimum wage employees will start to have higher and higher purchasing power. More money in their pockets means more money for them to spend, which means more money going back toward the economy for nights out and simple luxuries.

Our economy isn't going to collapse because a third of our state's workers are getting paid enough to keep themselves afloat. So sit back, relax and enjoy the rising tide.

Millennials have their own ways to stay informed about election

I am a 24-year-old, Korean-American post-grad, and I have been reading about every turn of this year's presidential campaign entirely on my phone, mostly right before bed. Yes, it is a bad habit, and yes, the blue light is suppressing my pineal gland from releasing delicious melatonin into my brain, but I wouldn't want to get my news any other way.

If in my late-night reading I am not being smothered in "Make America Great Again" Donald Trump Sauce, I am usually consuming article after article about Bernie Sanders. So it's been odd seeing recent headlines declaring variations on the theme of "Bernie Sanders gets snubbed by the media."

As I lay in bed, scrolling through my news feed, it occurred to me: There is a big distinction in the type of media those articles mentioned and the type of media I consume. I am a millennial who is getting all of the breakdowns, projections and birds-landing-on-podium videos in the form of media that I have personalized for myself, mainly through Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. My idea of "news" comes through media I have filtered for my interests, and it is delivered in varied and unbiased ways — unlike some traditional media where outlets such as Fox News paint a pretty right-wing picture.

I look to these modern media because I also want to know what my peers think. Online I am often confronted with viewpoints that are not aligned with mine, and if both parties are incisive, discussions can be informative when I participate. My phone can be turned into a Socratic seminar about current affairs if I play my social media handles well, and that is exciting.

Content generated online for all candidates is so plentiful and entertaining that it's all that really matters to the youth who will vote in November — and we will turn out at the polls. We are not sitting and waiting to find out how things unfold; we're actively participating.

It is important that one voice can be supported by the voices of hundreds of thousands of others online — and that this virtual presence can become loud enough to enact real change. Take it or leave it, social media have changed the politics game, and it's all being harvested by the nimble and studious fingers of America's excited youth. We are engaged in this election process because it is happening right now. We are engaged because it is a make-or-break moment for our futures. We're tired of people telling us what is best for us, so we're making our own choices and we're making them often and together.

The future is bright, but I can't tell if it's daytime yet, or if my phone is just keeping me awake.

– *Christina Seo | Chicago Tribune | TNS*

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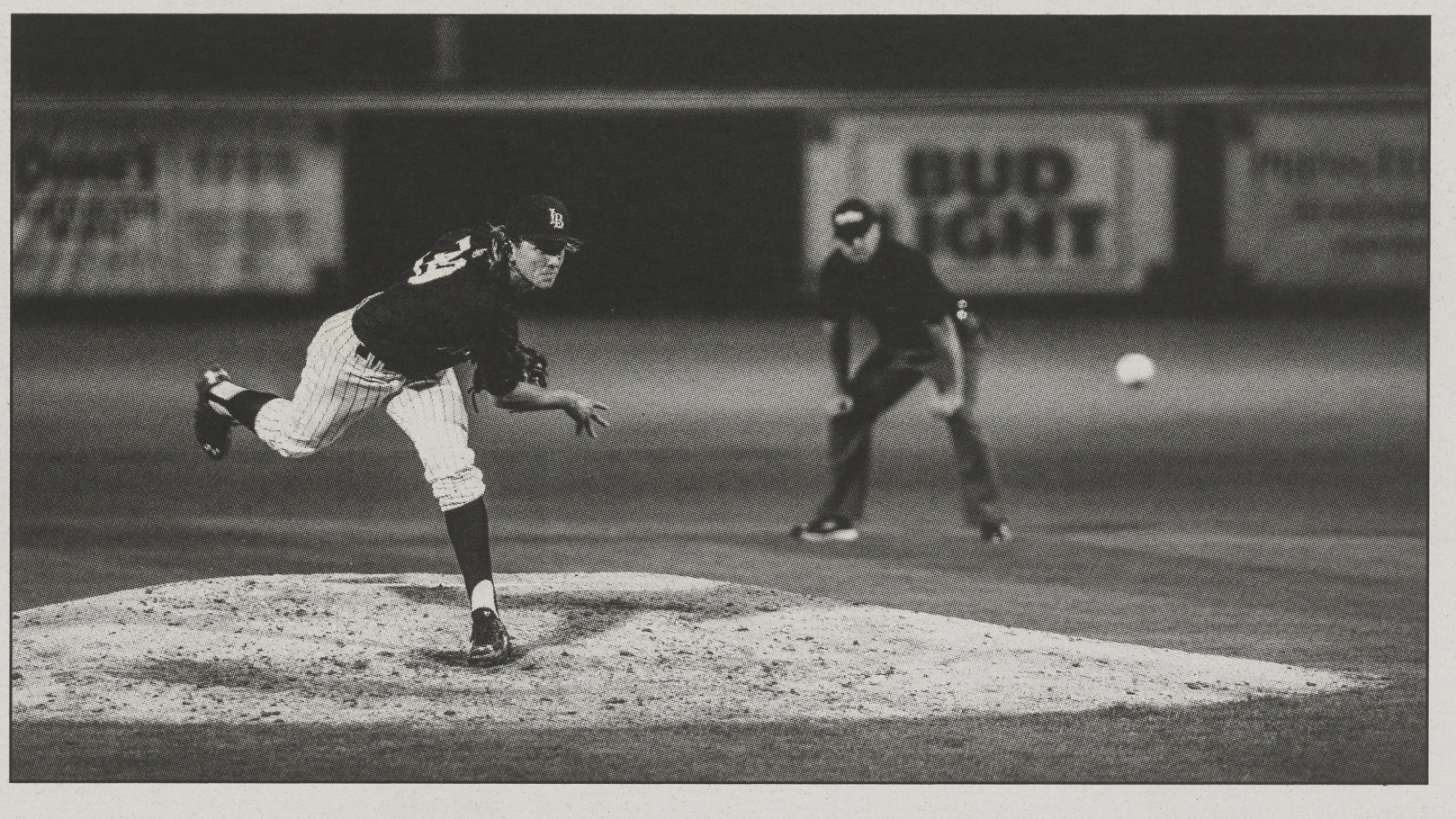
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Big West Pitchers of the Week



Tanner Brown

8 innings pitched

2 hits

0 runs allowed

5 strikeouts

Senior right-hander Tanner Brown picked up his first weekly award of the season and the second of his career since joining the Dirtbags in 2015. Brown is 4-1 this season and has a 3.02 ERA. He has 33 strikeouts in 41.2 innings pitched so far in 2016.

PHOTO BY JOHNNY ROMERO | DAILY 49ER

Christina Clermont

21.2 innings pitched

4 appearances

4 runs allowed

24 strikeouts

Junior right-hander Christina Clermont also earned her first weekly award of the 2016 season, bringing her career total to five since transferring to Long Beach State in 2015. Clermont owns a record of 13-4 and a 2.50 ERA this season. She also has 124 strikeouts in 114.2 innings pitched.

PHOTO BY JOHN FAJARDO | LBSU ATHLETICS



DIRTBAGS

continued from page 8

Get well soon

Three other former Dirtbags are sitting on their respective teams' disabled lists, waiting to be key contributors this season.

Blue Jays starting pitcher Marco Estrada, who was a major part of Toronto's postseason run last season, is on the 15-day D.L. with a sore back. He set to make his first start on Sunday against Boston.

The Pittsburgh Pirates' Jared Hughes is also on the 15-day D.L. after the reliever strained his back during spring training. Hughes does not have a set return date, but he is missed in Pittsburgh after throwing 67 innings for a 2.28 ERA out of the bullpen last season.

Jason Vargas of the Kansas City Royals will have to wait significantly longer than Estrada and Hughes to pitch this season. Vargas is on the Royals' 60-day DL after undergoing Tommy John surgery on Aug. 5, 2015.

Wishing it was Opening Day

Former LBSU basketball star James Ennis finally found significant minutes with an NBA team. The only problem: there is only a week and a half and a handful of games left in the season.

After the Memphis Grizzlies released Ennis on March 2, the second-year forward spent weeks in the Developmental League before the New Orleans Pelicans rescued him with a 10-day contract on Wednesday.

Ennis immediately saw playing time, logging 24 minutes on the same day he signed his contract. He scored 13 points, picked up four assists and collected five rebounds in the 100-92 loss to San Antonio.

On Thursday, Ennis played 30 minutes, surpassing his season total of 45 NBA minutes he had with the Grizzlies in just two games with the Pels.

Ennis scored 11 points on three for five shooting from the three-point line and had six rebounds and three assists in the 101-95 win over Denver.

In the Pelicans' 106-87 win over the Brooklyn Nets on Sunday, Ennis recorded his best game of the season. He picked up 14 points, four steals, three rebounds, two assists and a block in 29 minutes.

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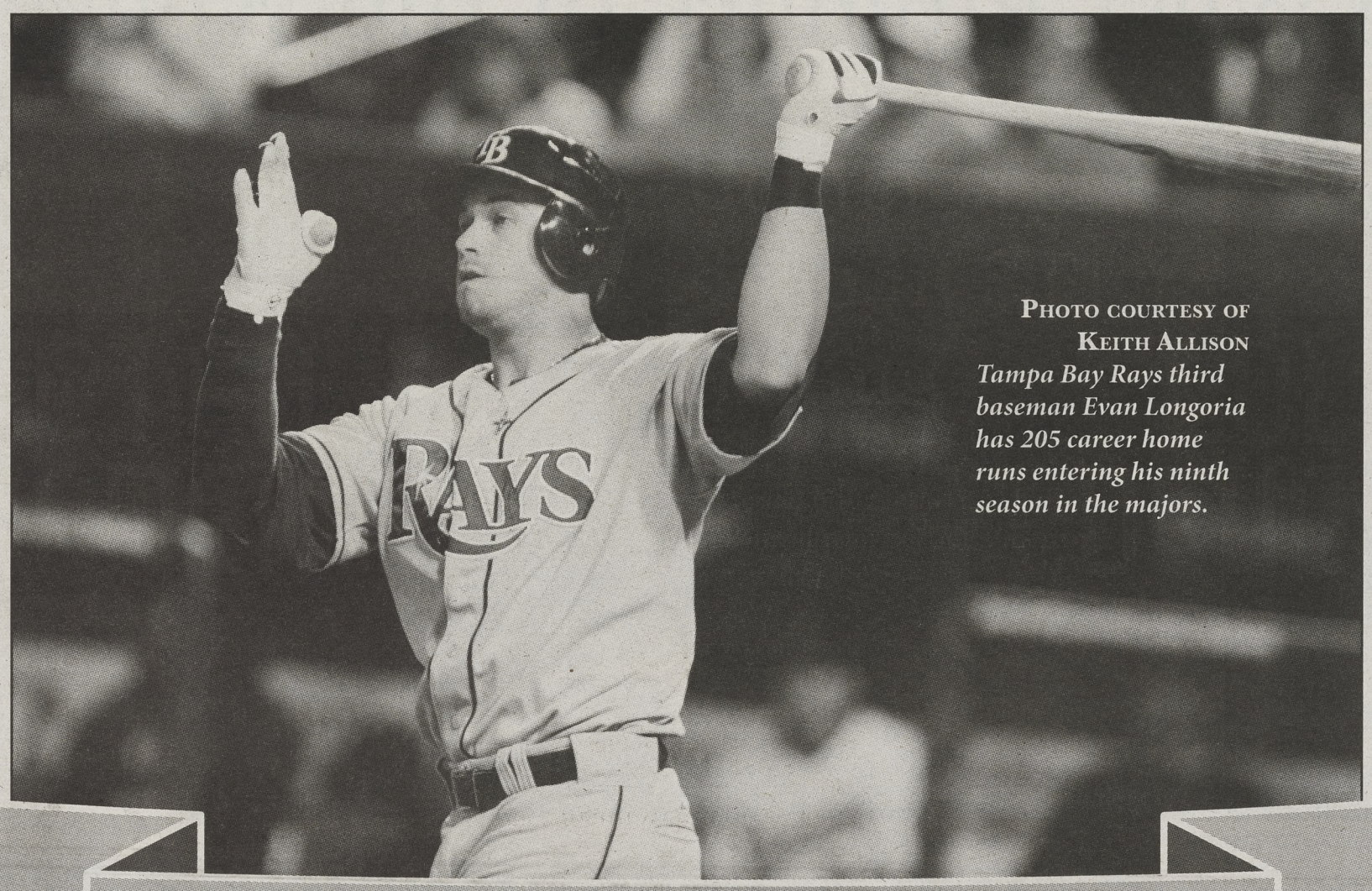


Photo courtesy of Keith Allison
Tampa Bay Rays third baseman Evan Longoria has 205 career home runs entering his ninth season in the majors.

Opening Day Dirtbags

With the 2016 Major League Baseball season in full swing, the Long Beach State Dirtbags are once again well represented.

By Josh Barajas
Sports Editor

Over the past six seasons, the Long Beach State baseball program led Major League Baseball with the most alumni from one university.

In 2015, 16 former LBSU ball players saw action in the big leagues and five of them were a part of teams that made it into the postseason.

This season is no different as a total of eight ex-Dirtbags are firmly placed on opening day rosters with several others on the disabled list and minor leagues waiting to get their chance.

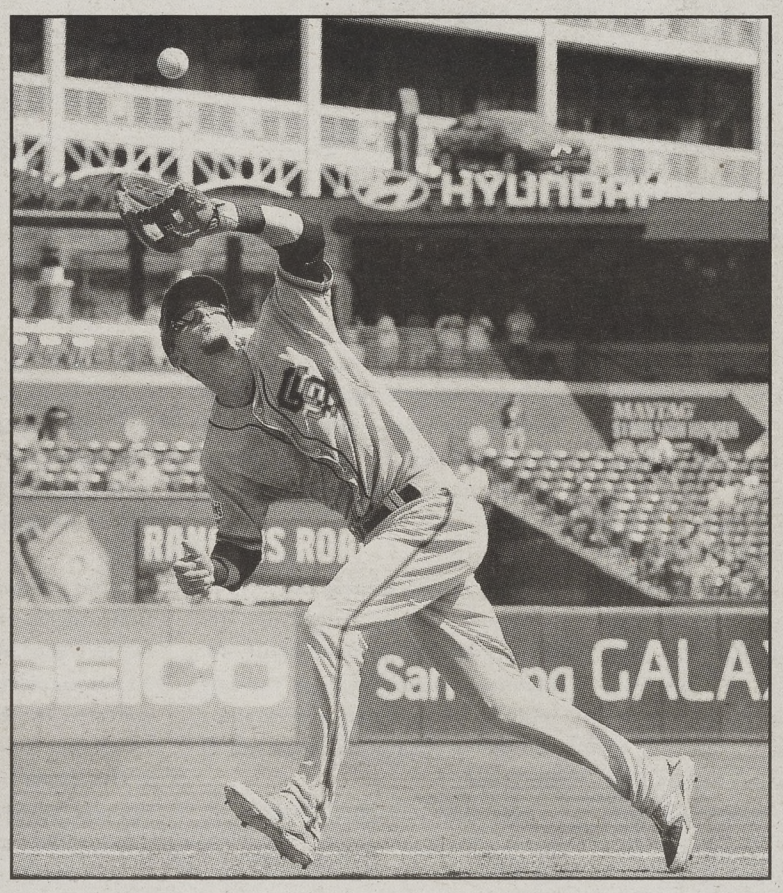
Early birds

The Tampa Bay Rays and Toronto Blue Jays started their season a little earlier than everyone else, playing their first game of the season on Sunday instead of Monday like most of the league.

Ex-Dirtbag Evan Longoria hit an RBI single in the third inning to bring in the Rays' first run of the season. Later in the game, Longoria's former teammate at LBSU, Troy Tulowitzki, crushed a two-run home run to push the score to 5-1 in favor of the Blue Jays. Longoria went 2-4 with an RBI while Tulowitzki went 1-3 with two RBIs and a walk in the Jays' 5-3 win.

The Duffman returns

2014 World Series champion Matt Duffy started the 2016 season ready to build upon his impressive rookie season in 2015 with the San Francisco Giants when he had a .295 batting average, drove in 77 runs and hit 12 home runs. On Monday, Duffy got the start at third base and set the pace of the game with a two-RBI single in the second inning and a two-run shot in the fifth, giving the Giants a 12-3 win over Milwaukee



Richard W. Rodriguez | Fort Worth Star-Telegram | TNS
San Francisco Giants third baseman Matt Duffy catches a foul ball hit by Texas Rangers' Rougned Odor during the seventh inning on Aug. 2, 2015, at Globe Life Park in Arlington, Texas.

Hanging around in D.C.

The Washington Nationals' infielder Danny Espinosa is not a consistent starter like he was in his first two seasons in The Bigs, but he still has a role to play with the Nats in 2016. Espinosa got the start at shortstop on Monday, going 1-4 in Washington's 4-3 win over Atlanta.

Bulls in the pen

There are four pitchers on opening day rosters that tossed at LBSU at one point in their careers. However, all four will have to wait a bit to take a mound.

Relief pitchers Vance Worley, Bryan Shaw and Nick Vincent didn't see any action with the Baltimore Orioles, Cleveland Indians and Seattle Mariners, respectively. Meanwhile, Los Angeles Angels pitcher Jered Weaver is set to start on Sunday against the Texas Rangers. Weaver is returning from a neck injury he picked up during spring training and is slated to be the fifth starter in the Angels' rotation.

see **DIRTBAGS**, page 7